

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
November 19, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2003, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California.

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Ann Guerra, Patti Ingram (alternate), Chet Krage

Members Absent: Drew Bedwell, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman, Robin Sutherland

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Acting Chairman Krage convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: October 2003

Executive Director Landon stated that the annual report for the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee program would be distributed to member agencies to enable them to fulfill the legal requirements to do public hearings regarding their mitigation fee programs. He noted that due to a good local economy last year, the revenues collected for the mitigation fee program are now on target for the projections that were made when the program was established.

2. Correspondence.

E. *Yuba-Sutter Transit Newsletter* - Article regarding the annual Unmet Transit Needs Hearings in Yuba and Sutter Counties.

Acting Chairman Krage asked if a letter had been sent to Yuba County stating the Commission's opinion that it was Yuba County's obligation to provide transit services to Camptonville, if service was to be provided.

Michael Hill-Weld, Director of Nevada County Transportation and Sanitation, responded that he could send a letter stating that Nevada County had ceased providing transit service to Camptonville because Yuba County did not contribute funding for the route. He stated it was Yuba County's responsibility to determine if service to Camptonville was an unmet transit need.

3. Executive Director's Report:

➤ Use of Pedestrian and Bicycle Funds

Executive Director Landon stated that the information provided was in response to a question that was raised at the last Commission meeting regarding the use of pedestrian and bicycle funds. He explained that there had been no formal action, but by agreement of the NCTC Technical Advisory Committee, member jurisdictions have annually taken turns in using pedestrian and bicycle funds ever since the fund was established.

By setting aside 2% of the LTF for pedestrian and bicycle use, and using an annual rotation method, rather than dividing the funds by population-based apportionments, a member agency receives enough funds to do a small project. The Transportation Development Act provides the Commission the authority to use these funds for other transportation services if they make certain findings. However, Mr. Landon noted, that using these funds for other purposes would be a significant departure from past practice. The amounts currently available to each entity were presented in a chart attached to the Executive Director's report.

Acting Chairman Krage stated that at a prior Commission meeting, Commissioner Bedwell had expressed the thought of using the pedestrian and bicycle funds for transit purposes. He noted that if the Commission approved the Town of Truckee's request for an allocation of \$125,000 from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Fund Account (shown in Action Item 8), in recognition of the small amount of funds that would be left, it would be meaningless to try to use those funds for transit purposes. He stated that by taking action on Truckee's request, then by default, the Commission was saying it was not going to use the pedestrian and bicycle funds for other purposes. The Commissioners agreed with Acting Chairman Krage's statement.

- Status of Request for the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) Evaluation of the State Route 49 and La Barr Meadows Road Intersection

Executive Director Landon stated that once he has gathered all requested data, he would send the information with a request for the Institute of Transportation Studies Evaluation Team to come to Nevada County and review four intersections in the community. Those four intersections are:

- ❖ SR 49/La Barr Meadows Road (Nevada County and Caltrans)
- ❖ South Auburn Street/Neal Street/Colfax Avenue (Grass Valley)
- ❖ Brunswick Road/Idaho Maryland Road (Nevada County)
- ❖ SR 174/Brunswick Road (Nevada County and Caltrans)

- Report on the Gateway Monument Meeting

Executive Director Landon stated that the Chambers of Commerce planned to hold a conference on November 24th at the proposed gateway monument site to provide interested persons an opportunity to view the site, and to possibly generate ideas as to what they might propose for a monument.

Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans planner and liaison, stated that for the record this was not a "Gateway Monument" project. If it were a "Gateway" project, then Federal Highways Administration regulations would have to be followed. Identifying the project as "Transportation Art" allowed it to be considered under less restrictive state criteria.

- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Status

Executive Director Landon stated that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) had released the STIP Fund Estimate and on November 24th they would host a workshop to discuss its ramifications.

- Review of Growth in Population, Transit Revenues, and Ridership

Executive Director Landon stated the he had prepared the enclosed chart in an effort to better understand the dynamics that have occurred over the last decade with regard to population growth, transit revenues, and transit ridership. The major difference in the data for 1993-2002 from the projections for 1999-2008 was the amount of capital revenue that was no longer available. Mr. Landon stated that unless the state, in their budget process, developed a new program similar to the 2002 Rural

Transit System Grant Program, capital replacement would have to be funded with existing revenues, which would limit the ability to expand transit service levels.

Commissioner Guerra questioned if air quality funds might become available for use to purchase transit vehicles. Executive Director Landon responded that in March or April 2004, Nevada County is scheduled to be designated as "non-attainment for ozone under the Federal 8-hour standard" and would be eligible for Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality funds. Based on allocations that have gone to other areas, the amount of expected funding is three to four hundred thousand dollars a year that can be used for vehicle replacement.

Acting Chairman Krage questioned how paratransit buses will be funded in the future. Executive Director Landon stated that the County had purchased seven vehicles for paratransit use by using Proposition 116 Grant funds. Since that time, Gold Country Telecare, Inc. has been able to acquire replacement vehicles through the Federal Transit Administration 5310 Grant Program. It is assumed this grant will continue to be available for funding vehicles in the future.

4A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager.

➤ Safety Realignment and Widening on SR 20

Mr. Brannon stated that a full Project Development Team is onboard for this project and mapping has been completed. The Caltrans environmental staff has recently identified about twenty archeological sites in the area from Pet Hill towards Marysville, and has adjusted the project to minimize the impact on those sites.

➤ Dorsey Drive Interchange

Mr. Brannon stated the STIP Fund Estimate will affect the schedule for completion of this project. On October 30th a Risk Management Team meeting was held to identify risks to the schedule and the project. Naturally occurring asbestos has been identified as a risk in the Dorsey Drive area and needs to be addressed. A Design Team has been assigned to start work on the project. However, due to the lack of staffing in the past several months, the schedule will slip and needs to be adjusted. STIP funding constraints may also delay project completion.

➤ SR 49 Widening Project

Mr. Brannon stated that the goal for the money currently programmed in the STIP for the design, right-of-way, and right-of-way support phases of this project, is to be used for a segment of the corridor that can be fully programmed for construction. Based on discussions at the last several Commission meetings, the focus has been directed toward improvement of the area near the La Barr Meadows Road intersection.

Commissioner Ingram stated there was a proposed annexation to the City of Grass Valley with an at-grade intersection at Crestview Drive, and questioned why this area would not be widened to four lanes first rather than somewhere else. Mr. Brannon noted the large amount of public concern regarding traffic in the La Barr Meadows Road area, and if an area has to be chosen, it would be the area with the greatest problem first. Executive Director Landon stated that if the proposed South Hill Village Project is constructed, the developers will be required to widen the highway to four lanes from McKnight Way past their project.

➤ Truckee Bypass Mitigation Planting

Mr. Brannon stated the goal is to fund this project as part of the 2004 STIP and get it scheduled as early as possible in the STIP. The job is ready to list, but it needs the CTC to vote funding for it and the CTC needs funding in order to do that.

➤ Truckee Relinquishment

Mr. Brannon stated construction has been completed and that he has been working with staff from the Town of Truckee on the details of the relinquishment process.

➤ Widening of the Road from Bear River to Wolf/Combie Road

Mr. Brannon stated that not all of the work was completed in time to open all five lanes for this winter. The project is scheduled to start again in the spring of 2004 and is to be completed in the fall of 2004. He explained that there was insufficient depth of paving outside of the main two lanes to support traffic loads for the winter.

➤ Park-and-Ride Lot

The Park-and-Ride lot, located at the Calvary Chapel of Grass Valley Church, is open and the signs indicating its location will be up December 12th.

➤ Gold Flat Roundabout

Mr. Brannon stated this project is in the design phase and because it is a safety project, the funding is secure. The job is to be listed in July 2004.

4B. SR 49 at La Barr Meadows Road Update: Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans Planner.

The following is a synopsis of Ms. Robinson's presentation:

- ❖ The solar flashing lights to be used on the signs in the La Barr Meadows Road area are not an item Caltrans stocks. It will take thirty to sixty days before the lights are in and then installation will need to be scheduled.
- ❖ She met with the managers of Mountain Air Mobile Home Park, Forest Spring Mobile Home Park, and Tall Pines Mobile Home Park who expressed their concerns to her. The Mountain Air Mobile Home Park managers are concerned with the line of sight and having the brush and a Caltrans reflector removed. They were also concerned with their tenants having to cross the highway to catch the bus. Ms. Robinson talked to Caltrans maintenance regarding removing the brush and reflector. Bill Derrick is addressing the issue for bus service into the park. The Forest Springs Mobile Home Park managers oppose the reconfiguration of Welsh Lane to connect to La Barr Meadows Road.
- ❖ Caltrans does not provide striping and signs inside mobile home parks. This is a responsibility of the property owners.
- ❖ Ken Melton, a CHP public officer is willing to provide driver education for the tenants of the mobile home parks.
- ❖ Caltrans is going to incorporate FHWA signage and striping standards which will be more advantageous to older drivers (i.e. larger print on signs).
- ❖ She met with Drew Bedwell, John Rumsey, Dan Landon, and Tom Brannon to discuss Commissioner's Bedwell's idea to consolidate some of the access roads and bring them into La Barr Meadows Road. Commissioner Bedwell was satisfied at the conclusion of the meeting that the cost was too prohibitive at this time.

Mr. John Rumsey, Senior Engineer, Nevada County Transportation Department, stated that the County purchased a speed trailer several years ago and the CHP employs it for them. The CHP has been using it several times in the last month in the La Barr Meadows Road area.

Executive Director Landon stated that the UC Berkeley ITS evaluation will probably be the next step to provide direction as to what might be accomplished at the La Barr Meadows Road intersection.

A Commission discussion occurred regarding the need to encourage the owners of the mobile home parks to do striping and signage within their parks.

Harriet McKay, resident of Nevada City, stated she was pleased Ann Marie Robinson met with the new owners of the Mountain Air Mobile Home Park. She stated that five years ago concerned citizens had met with Caltrans and discussed the removal of the brush for sight visibility, and who was responsible for doing this. Ms. McKay stated she was pleased the brush was going to be removed.

Regarding landscaping at the Brunswick Interchange, Ms. Robinson stated that the Sierra Grape Growers will be planting one hundred pine trees on December 6th. She noted that during the summer months, Hanson Brothers provided water for the landscaping.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes: October 15, 2003. *Approved.*
6. FTA Section 5311 Program Regional Balance Sheet and 2003/04 FY Program of Projects: *Authorized staff to submit the 2003/04 FY Program of Projects to Caltrans.*
7. Disposal of Surplus Equipment: *Adopted Resolution 03-24.*

Motion made by Commissioner Arnett to approve the consent items. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. Allocation Request from the Town of Truckee.

Executive Director Landon stated the Town of Truckee was requesting an allocation of \$125,000 from the funds identified for them in the Pedestrian and Bicycle account to help construct the *Truckee River Legacy Trail* project.

Dan Wilkins, Engineer for the Town of Truckee, provided an overview of the *Truckee River Legacy Trail* project to the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adopt Resolution 03-25. Commission Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Final Eastern Nevada County Five-Year Transit Development Plan (ENCTDP).

Michael Woodman, NCTC Transportation Planner, stated that the ENCTDP was a joint planning effort between the Town of Truckee and the NCTC, funded by the NCTC with FTA Grant funds. The revised draft report was presented to the Truckee Town Council on October 13th and their comments were incorporated into the final report. Mr. Woodman stated that the action being requested of the Commission was to accept the final plan as being complete under the terms of the agreement with the consultant, LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Geoff Straw of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. presented a summary of their recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Guerra to adopt Resolution 03-26. Commissioner Ingram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Staff Compensation Survey.

Executive Director Landon reviewed the salary and compensation survey and the recommendations detailed in Resolution 03-27.

Acting Chairman Krage stated the salary and compensation for Mr. Landon would be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.

Comments on the adequacy, timing of the report, and recommendations were made by Commissioner Guerra, Krage, and Arnett.

A motion was made by Commissioner Guerra to adopt Resolution 03-27. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Acting Chairman Krage suggested that people visit the new train station in Auburn and stated he was impressed by the improvements that had been made.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 8:30 a.m., at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ingram seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Joshua J. Susman, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission